

Young Backs Nixon; Alaskans Are Critical

Public reaction has been in strong opposition here to President Nixon's firing of Archibald Cox as special prosecutor in the Watergate case and to the shakeup in the Justice Department over the weekend.

The office of Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, has received 18 telegrams to date, with 16 unfavorable to Nixon's move and two favorable.

Democratic Sen. Mike Gravel's office reports 25 telegrams from Alaskans seeking impeachment of the President, five from out of the state for impeachment and two from Outside in support of the President's action.

Rep. Don Young's office has received 15 telegrams from Alaskans and 16 from out of state, all for impeachment.

Meanwhile, the Times Washington Bureau

reports Young yesterday was sharply critical of moves in Congress to impeach Nixon.

The Republican from Alaska said impeachment was not justified before the President relinquished the Watergate tapes yesterday, and it certainly is not so now.

"When the tapes are played," Young said, it will be shown that there has been "much ado about nothing." The tapes will "prove that the separations of power principle was utmost in the President's mind."

Young said he believed Nixon was legally justified in firing special prosecutor Archibald Cox after he refused to accept the President's compromise over the disputed tapes.

"The President must have the right to change officials" who are employed in the

executive branch, Young said.

"As of today," Young stressed, "there is no ground for impeaching."

The first-term congressman said those shouting for impeachment now were shouting for it before. "Who is (Rep. Jerone) Waldie? Who is (Rep. Donald) Reigle?" Young asked. Referring to two Democrats who introduced impeachment resolutions on the House floor in the wake of Cox's firing and the resignations of Attorney General Elliot Richardson and his top assistant, William French Smith.

Young labeled these efforts part of a "partisan political war."

The congressman also said, "We have no vice president. Who is to replace the President? Can the speaker (Carl Albert)

stand up to the scrutiny?" Young asked.

The Alaska Republican stressed that the confirmation of vice president-designate Rep. Gerald Ford is "imperative." He said the "sooner Congress acts, the better it will be."

While criticizing actual impeachment resolutions, Young said he could support an "even-handed, bi-partisan inquiry" into whether there are legal grounds for impeaching Nixon.

House Democrats yesterday agreed to an inquiry along these lines to be conducted by the House Judiciary Committee chaired by Rep. Peter Rodino, D-N.J.

In his discussion of the present crisis surrounding the President, Young stressed that he wasn't apologizing for Nixon.